Death of children in explosion near Babina firing range

516. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some children had died in explosion of an unexploded hand grenade picked up by them from the Babina Firing Range, Jhansi, sometimes in the beginning of June, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what measures heve been taken by Government to make the firing range safe and inaccessible so as to avoid such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen a press report in this regard, but have no information about the grenade having been picked up from the Babina Firing Range.

(c) There is no habitation inside the Babina Field Firing Range, being an acquired range. Whenever firing is carried out, sentries are posted on all the approaches to the range area to stop people from entering the range. During firing practice, a careful watch is kept on the unexploded shells and grenades which are identified and detonated to prevent accidents.

Pak Nationals killed arrested by B. S. F.

517. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Pakistani nationals, spies or smugglers who were killed by the Border Security Force when these intruders were trynig to enter, in a clandestine manner, into Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan during the months of April, May and June, 1986; and

(b) how many spies or smugglers were arrested during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) 91 intruders who had crossed over from Pakistan were killed in encounters with BSF on Indo-Pak border during the months of April, May and June, 1986.

(b) 20 persons suspected to be smugglers and one person suspected to be a Pakistani agent were apprehended during the same period.

Migration of Technocrats etc. from India

518. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the estimated loss to India due to the migration of technocrats, medicos, etc. from India to other countries, so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian experts, technocrats, medicos and others had been going out of the country primarily because of higher income and better facilities available abroad; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard and what concrete steps are proposed to be taken to stop brain drain and to recognise and adopt a merit system and provide better incomes and benefits to technocrates, medicos etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The total loss to the country on account of migration of experts, technocrats, medicos, etc. from India to other countries, is extremely difficult to be quantified, in monetary terms.

(b) The migration of Indian scientists and technologists to other countries, has been, among other, on ac-

count of better working conditions, opportunities to work in specialised areas and higher emoluments.

(c) The Government is fully alive to the situation and a number of measures have been taken to improve the working conditions of the scientists. These measures include:

1. Programmes have been launched through which 'core' groups of scientists are created in the country with all necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of Sciences and Technology.

2. New Scientific Departments/ Organisations such as Deparments of Bio-technology Ocean Development, Environment, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics etc. have been set up and some of these are in the high technology areas. These are likely to provide exciting job opportunities for the scientists, technologists and doctors.

3. Special schemes are being implemented to provide assistance to scientists for attending international conference besides enabling younger scientists to attend specialised training programmes outside India.

4. There is a provision for temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the Scheme of Scientists' Pool. A provision has also been made for creation of supernumerary posts.

5. The Scheme of flexible complementing/merit promotion is being introduced in all the scientific departments/organisations.

6. The financial allocation for S&T activities has been increased substantially over the successive Five Year Plans.

7. Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve the organisational efficiency and working conditions of scientists.

Advanced Light Helicopter Project

519. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest position regarding Advanced Light Helicopter Project; and

(b) whether the project is on schedule and what is the latest estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND DEFENCE SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The Project is currently in the Development Phase, after the completion of the Preliminary Design Phase. The project is on schedule. Its estimated cost is Rs. 94.87 crores at 1982-83 price level.

Proposal to make Darjeeling a Centrally Administrated Union Territory

520. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under their consideration any proposal to make Darjeeling a centrally administrated Union Territory;

(b) if so, who has made this proposal; and

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Constitution for the inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is the endeavour of the Government to develop the cultural and literary heritage of all the languages irrespective of their inclusion or otherwise in the Eighth Schedule.